

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 2003-029
DATE: April 4, 2003 Time 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential Dam Failure – Work continues by contractors and officials from the Cavalier Water Resource Board, the State Water Commission (SWC), and federal technicians representing the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to retain as much of the pool at Mt. Carmel Dam even though the control structure has been compromised.

2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported in North Dakota.
3. DAMAGES: Due to emergency placement of an earthen berm (cofferdam) around the spillway, water is no longer flowing under the spillway of Mount Carmel Dam.

Major concerns continue to focus on technical challenges and costs involved in repair and/or restoration as well as the long term impacts on the water supply for the city of Langdon.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The old principal spillway has been completely opened increasing the flow rate from 100 cubic feet per second (csf) to 250 cfs. Lowering the pool level more quickly decreases pressure on the dam and reduces the total volume of water released if dam failure were to occur. To date, the reservoir level has dropped approximately four feet and continues to fall at a rate of one foot per 24-hour period. Barring significant additional precipitation, it will take about five days to lower the level to that of the old principal spillway. The remaining pool should provide an adequate water supply for the city of Langdon. SWC officials indicated efforts to drive interlocking sheet (steel) pilings will begin on Monday, April 7 with an anticipated two week timeframe for completion. The pilings will provide a more effective protective barrier until dam reconstruction can occur. The repair process has been aided by the slow melt, which has reduced the increase of water volume in the reservoir.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional assistance has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director